size between the rollers to regulate excess solvent removed from the strip.

63.(Amended) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, comprising :

removing a strip of cleaning fabric from a cleaning fabric supply roll;

treating said strip of cleaning fabric in a vat of solvent wherein the strip of cleaning fabric is at functional equilibrium with the solvent after said treatment; and

cleaning the cylinder of the printing press with the strip of cleaning fabric.

64.(Amended) The method according to claim 63 wherein the treating further comprises exposing the strip of cleaning fabric to the solvent.

65.(Amended) The method according to claim 63 wherein the treating further comprises submerging the strip of cleaning fabric into the solvent.

66.(Amended) The method according to claim 63 wherein the treating further includes dipping the strip of cleaning fabric into the solvent.

68.(Amended) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, comprising:

dipping a cleaning fabric supply roll into a vat of solvent; and

cleaning the cylinder of the printing press with the cleaning fabric supply roll.

REMARKS

Claims 1–6, 9–11, and 17 and 51-70 are pending in this application. All claims have been rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

1. Claims 4 and 60-61 are rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. Claims 4, 60-61 have been amended to correct antecedent basis rejections. Withdrawal of the rejections

is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 1–6, 10–11, and 17 and 51-70 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki (US Pat. No. 5,509,353) in combination with MacPhee et al. (US Pat. No. 4,344,361). Applicants traverse the rejection and submit a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made.

Applicants contend that the '353 patent in combination with the `361 patent does not teach or suggest the subject matter claimed, and in fact teach away from the Applicants claimed invention. The '353 discloses a complex system using supply tubes (78) and a liquid reservoir (77) to pump the cleaning fluid to the sponge. Cleaning fluid "drips" onto cleaning sheet (59) through a manifold or guiding member (74) that has a series of small holes that apply the cleaning fluid. Supply tubes (78) carry cleaning fluid from a source (not shown) through a coupler (79) so that cleaning fluid passes or is pumped from the supply tube (78) to liquid reservoir (77). (See Col. 3, lines 60-67; Col. 4, lines 1-15).

The '361 patent discloses an automatic blanket cylinder cleaner having liquid dispensing and spraying systems. Water or solvent is "sprayed" by spray jets (43) or (48) onto the cloth. (See Col. 7, lines 47-67; Col.10, lines 56-60; Col. 13 lines 10-11 and 39-50).

A distinct advantage of the cleaning system of the Applicants' claimed invention is that it eliminates the need for complex apparatus, such as pumps, spray bars, manifold lines, valves and the like, especially as part of the automatic blanket cleaning systems used on printing machinery to introduce cleansing solvents or solutions to the cleaning fabric.(See, Applicants Specification page 32, lines 10-15).

Clearly there are substantial structural and functional differences between what the

references teach and what the Applicants now claim. The Applicants claim dipping a cleaning fabric supply roll into a vat or container of solvent. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines dipping as to "plunge or immerse under the surface (as of a liquid)." The Applicants claim the introduction of the cleaning solvent to the cleaning fabric eliminates the need for using pumps, spray bars, manifold lines and valves. The above cited references, on the other hand, teach dripping or spraying. Dripping is defined as "to let fall in drops" and spraying is defined as to "disperse or apply as a spray." In order for the apparatus taught in these references to drip or spray cleaning fluid, complex apparatus is required, such as pumps, spray bars, manifold lines, valves and the like. These references teach away from what the Applicants claim because the use of complex apparatus required by the cited references is exactly what the Applicants' invention claims to eliminate.

Applicants respectfully submit that the '353 patent in combination with the '361 patent does not teach or suggest the subject matter claimed, and in fact teach away from the Applicants claimed invention by requiring complex apparatus to apply the cleaning solution. Since the references cited do not teach or suggest what the Applicants have claimed, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

3. Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki ('353) in combination with MacPhee et al.('361) and further in view of Knaul et al. (US Pat. No. 4,860,883).

Applicants traverse the rejection and submit a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made. Applicants repeat the same arguments previously made with respect to the '353 and '361 patents. The cited references do not teach or suggest what the Applicants' claim and in fact teach away from what the applicant claims. The '353 patent teaches removing excess cleaning

fluid by using a control device 101 to control the flow of cleaning fluid. After the drum is cleaned, the flow of cleaning fluid is stopped and dry portions of the cleaning sheet (59) removes any cleaning fluid remaining on the drum. (See Col. 5, lines 10-39)

The '361 patent discloses removing excess cleaning fluid by using jets or openings directed at the blanket cylinder to direct pressurized air onto the surface of the blanket cylinder so as to dry the water or non-aqueous or hydrocarbon solvent remaining on the blanket cylinder.(See Col. 7, lines 60-68; Col. 13, lines 45-50).

The '883 patent teaches an endless conveyer belt washed by a cleaning roller. The cleaning roller is sprayed at the bottom with a cleaning fluid emitted through nozzles. Excess fluid can be squeezed out by contact of pressure roller (5). (See, Col. 2, lines 1-30; Col. 4)

The Applicants, on the other hand, claim removing excess solvent by squeezing the solvent from a pre-soaked strip of cleaning fabric. None of the references teach or suggest such a method. The '353 and '361 patent teach away from squeezing excess solvent by using a cleaning sheet and air, respectively to remove excess fluid. The '883 patent teaches away from squeezing excess solvent as the Applicants claim by using a roll instead of a pre-soaked strip of cleaning fabric as the Applicant claims. Clearly squeezing excess fluid from a strip versus squeezing a roll has structural and functional differences. In addition, the '883 patent teaches away from what the Applicants claim by using a complex spraying device for directing cleaning fluid against a cleaning roller. As previously stated, Applicants invention distinctly avoids the use of any such complex spraying equipment. It is well settled that consideration must be given where the references diverge and teach away from the claimed invention.

Even if the references were combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner, which itself is improper for reasons set forth above, the resulting method would not realize the

advantages and benefits of the claimed invention. Applicants therefore respectfully submit since the cited references do not teach or suggest what the Applicant claims, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §103.

CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, it is believed that all of the claims as presently presented, are patentable, and that this application is now in allowable condition.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0140-4126US5.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: NOV. 1, 2002

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APPENDIX MARKED-UP VERSION

IN THE CLAIMS

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1.(Twice Amended) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, the printing press comprising a frame, a cleaning fabric supply element mounted with respect to the frame and having a wound strip of cleaning fabric, a cleaning fabric take-up means mounted with respect to the frame, and means supported by the frame for guiding the strip of cleaning fabric from the supply element to the take-up means, the method comprising:

dipping said wound strip of cleaning fabric into a container containing a cleaning solvent, said container mounted with respect to the frame of the printing press and located between the cleaning fabric supply element and the cylinder such that the introduction of the cleaning solvent to the cleaning fabric eliminates the need for using pumps, spray bars, manifold lines and valves;

unwinding said strip of cleaning fabric containing the solvent from said cleaning fabric supply element; and

cleaning said cylinder with a cylinder cleaning means mounted with respect to the frame for bringing said strip of cleaning fabric containing the solvent into contact with the cylinder, thereby creating a used strip of cleaning fabric which is received by the take-up means.

4.(Amended) The method as defined in claim 3 further comprising [the] a step of removing said cleaning fabric supply roll from said container containing said solvent.

51.(Amended) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, comprising:

dipping a cleaning fabric supply roll into a vat of solvent;

removing a strip of cleaning fabric from the supply roll containing the solvent; and

cleaning the cylinder of the printing press with the strip.

57.(Amended) The method according to claim 56 wherein the dipping of the roll into the solvent is [contained in a container] done independent of the [cleaning system] printing press.

60.(Amended) The method according to claim 51 further including a step of removing excess solvent from the strip of cleaning fabric to obtain a strip of cleaning fabric saturated to functional equilibrium with the solvent.

61.(Amended) The method according to claim 60 further including feeding the strip of cleaning fabric into a printing press of the type having at least two rollers and controlling a gap size between [at least two] the rollers to regulate excess solvent removed from the strip.

63.(Amended) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, comprising :

removing a strip of cleaning fabric from a cleaning fabric supply roll;

treating said strip of cleaning fabric [with a] in a vat of solvent wherein the strip of cleaning fabric is at functional equilibrium with the solvent after said treatment; and

cleaning the cylinder of the printing press with the strip of cleaning fabric.

64.(Amended) The method according to claim 63 wherein the treating further comprises exposing the strip of cleaning fabric to [a container containing] the solvent.

65.(Amended) The method according to claim 63 wherein the treating further comprises submerging the strip of cleaning fabric into [a container containing] the solvent.

66.(Amended) The method according to claim 63 wherein the treating further includes dipping the strip of cleaning fabric into[a container containing said] the solvent.

68.(Amended) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, comprising:

dipping a cleaning fabric supply roll into a vat of solvent; and

cleaning the cylinder of the printing press with the cleaning fabric supply roll.